Strike by chemists /druggists

1653. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chemists and druggists in the country closed their shops for three days *viz.* 27th, 28th and 29th July, 1984 in protest against the enforcement of clause 42(1) of the Pharmacy Act;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no dearth of trained pharmacists in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The call for the "Bandh' was given mainly in protest against the proposed enforcement of S. 42 of the Pharmacy Act from 1-9-1984, which prohibits dispensing by unregistered pharmacists. This provision was to come into effect from 1-9-1981 but was postponed by a legislative amendment for 3 years on representations from States as adequate number of trained pharmacists were not available. The position has since considerably improved and now there are about 2 lakhs registered pharmacists in the country.

Agricultural labourers afflicted with diseases

1654. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that labourers employed for spraying various pesticides over the years are afflicted with various diseases such as eye-defects, muscular degeneration; etc.;

(b) whether Government are aware of the findings of research work carried out in this regard by the Indian Toxicology Research Centre at Lucknow;

(c) if so, what are the details of the findings and recommendations made by the Centre in this regard; and

(d) what action Government have taken thereon to ensure that health of the agricultural workers is not affected?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) Government is aware of the adverse health effects of various pesticides on spraymen.

(b) to (d) The Government is aware that the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre at Lucknow is engaged in research activities in this area. However, the details of their findings and recommendations are not available with the Government.

Construction of third Godavary rail bridge

1655. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of money sanctioned for the third Godavari rail bridge in 1984-85 at Rajamundry, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what is the approximate date of completion of this bridge; and

(c) what are reasons for the delay if any?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Sir, an outlay of Rs. 2.88 crores has been provided for 1984-85;

(b) December, 1988.

(c) Does not arise since the work is already in progress and present progress is about 20 per cent.